



WEM DIGEST

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

Federal terrorism drill tests Wisconsin leaders

How would the state of Wisconsin respond to a terrorist bombing while still trying to calm the fears of the public and maintain order and safety? That was the scenario presented to Governor Jim Doyle and members of his cabinet and the Homeland Security Council.

On September 12, state officials participated in a tabletop exercise in the Emergency Operations Center in Madison put on by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security "Mobile Education Team" (MET). The MET teams consist of nationally recognized homeland security experts and are meeting with top state officials around the country to make sure states are prepared.

The scenario involved a series of bombings at shopping malls across the nation and terrorist incidents around the world, placing the nation on heightened alert. The situation hit home when a dirty bomb goes off at a mall in the Milwaukee area, killing several people and making it difficult for emergency workers to respond to the scene.

Governor Doyle felt it was critical that during an incident, citizens were assured that someone was in charge and that the incident is being managed effectively. He said he would rely upon the expertise of members of his Homeland Security Council and his cabinet to make sure whatever assistance is needed at the local level is provided.

During the seminar, the following strategies were identified for carrying out Wisconsin's homeland security efforts in the future. They include:

- In any incident, the state's leaders need to communicate a sense of



Governor Jim Doyle (center) discusses Wisconsin's Homeland Security response to a terrorism event during the September 12 exercise. Sitting next to the Governor is Major General Al Wilkening, Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor, and Ed Gleason, Administrator of Wisconsin Emergency Management.

confidence and caring; the message needs to be that "we are on top of things, and that we have good people working on the incident."

- The Homeland Security Council is a forum for the state's key decision makers to advise the governor on homeland security issues.
- Emergency management is the cornerstone of homeland security. The Homeland Security Council adds the prevention, detection and deterrence elements to a system that has demonstrated its effectiveness.
- When deciding what information or intelligence to share, there is a tension between those who need to know vs. those who want to know. The intelligence community in Wisconsin

will provide specific threat intelligence to those with a need to know.

- Cultivate relationships with the media and educate them about homeland security issues.
- The state's central challenge is how to maintain awareness of homeland security issues in the absence of specific threats and major targets; and in the presence of competing agenda items, such as budget deficits.

At the end of the seminar, Governor Doyle captured the fundamental purpose of the Wisconsin MET when, after receiving a picture of the capitol city, he said the purpose of having meetings like this "is to make sure cities like Madison remain great places."

Federal funding remains strong

Over the past several years, we have worked hard to illustrate to our Congressional delegation the value of the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG). Many of you have helped in the process. These federal funds go a long way in building our nation's emergency management capabilities. These dollars support state and county emergency programs that are the underlying cornerstone of homeland security.

Congress heard our concerns and responded positively to our efforts. Senator Kohl has, for the past several years, championed this cause and last year deserves much credit for seeing the increase go from \$129M to \$165M as he pushed for the increase during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing with then-FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh.

This year Congress increased the funding to \$180M. I am pleased to report that Wisconsin's entire Congressional delegation supported this measure.

This increase will help narrow the gap between what we collectively expend to support our programs and the federal

contribution. Nationwide, the EMPG need has been estimated to be \$300 - 400M. At that level of funding, Federal share will equal the state/local share and EMPG will be a 50-50 match program as originally intended. But after years of level funding, these increases will certainly help state and local governments.

In Wisconsin, these dollars have been split between the state and county emergency management programs in a 1/3 to 2/3 split with the bulk of the dollars distributed to the county emergency management programs. We distribute these dollars to the counties using an EMPG funding model we developed several years ago to ensure these funds are fairly and equitably distributed based on quantifiable criteria. I am pleased that all 72 counties are using these funds to build strong programs in their communities.

I was also encouraged that Congress directed that the EMPG program remain an all-hazards program to be administered by FEMA. Many state directors felt that if the Office of Domestic Preparedness were to become



Ed Gleason
WEM Administrator

the distributor of these funds, it very well may place too much emphasis on homeland security and ignore the perils that we face each and every year, i.e. tornadoes, storms, chemical spills, and other response challenges. We need to keep the all-hazards approach to emergency management and build the system that homeland security relies upon in times of emergencies.

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful autumn days, remain vigilant and stay safe in all that you do!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. J. Gleason".

WEM Training & Exercises now online

If you are interested in finding out what Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) training classes are scheduled or what are some of the upcoming county exercises, you can now check out the new WEM website.

Beginning this fall, WEM class information is now posted under the "Training & Exercise" section. You can download upcoming WEM class information and registration forms. The information will be available approximately three months prior to the scheduled class.

Anyone interested in attending a WEM training class will still need to mail the registration form to their county

emergency management director. A list of names and addresses of county directors is also available on the website under "Resources".

WEM Training Calendars have been printed and are in the process of being distributed to county emergency management directors.

In addition, counties have been submitting information about upcoming exercises and that is also posted on the website. The WEM website address is <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

For further information or to submit an upcoming event, please contact Lori Getter at lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us.

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<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

National Group to Assess WEM

By Dale Seidel
WEM Administrative Officer

Wisconsin's emergency management programs will be evaluated against standards from the National Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

Beginning November 17, 2003, an independent peer group will be in Madison to assess Wisconsin's programs against the established national standards.

The results of the assessment will be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and WEM for future strategic planning and for the state to apply for emergency management accreditation.

Emergency management functions that will be evaluated or assessed include:

- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
- Hazard Mitigation
- Program Management
- Resource Management
- Planning
- Direction, Control & Coordination
- Communications & Warning
- Operations and Procedures
- Logistics and Facilities
- Finance & Administration
- Exercise & Training
- Public Information



The Emergency Management Accreditation Program is a voluntary review process for state and local emergency management programs. Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that a program meets national standards for emergency management programs.

It provides emergency management programs the opportunity to be recognized for compliance with national standards, to demonstrate accountability, and to focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed. For more information, go to the EMAP website at www.emaponline.org.

Regional News

37th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management



March 30-31, 2004
Radisson Paper
Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI

*Registration Materials will
be available in
February 2004*

Dorothy Tank is the new **Ashland County Emergency Management Director**. Welcome!

LaCrosse County has hired **Keith Butler** as the **LaCrosse County Emergency Management Director**. Congratulations!

Best Wishes to **Price County Emergency Management Director Nate Nez**. Nate has been the Price County Emergency Management Director since 1999. He has taken a position with Wisconsin Department of Veteran's Affairs. Good Luck!

Shawano County Emergency Management Coordinator Steve Golubic has accepted the Homeland Security Program Coordinator position with the Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council. Steve will be assisting all eleven tribes with their homeland security program.



Welcome to WEM

Kent MacLaughlin and **Veta Kilimnik** have joined Wisconsin Emergency Management in the Disaster Response/Resources Section. **Kent** is a Disaster Resource Planner. He came from the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. **Veta** is a Program Assistant and was previously employed with the UW Madison.

Counties submitting risk assessment materials

-information to be used for state strategic plan

By Christine Bacon
WEM Planning & Preparedness Bureau Director

County emergency management offices in Wisconsin are busy finishing up entering their risk assessment information on-line as part of a program with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The information gathered will be used in formulating the Wisconsin Homeland Security Strategic Plan which must be completed and sent to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by the end of this year.

Counties are currently working on completing the assessment portion by the October 31, 2003 deadline. Information submitted covers the capability/needs assessments in the areas of planning, equipment, training, exercising and technical assistance for domestic preparedness.

While completion of the risk assessment is a requirement in order to retain eligibility for future homeland security funding, the information gathered during the assessment process is paramount in setting priorities.

Local and state agency assessment information will be utilized by the Governor's Homeland Security Council and the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance in the development of a Wisconsin Homeland Security Strategic Plan. That plan will identify statewide goals and objectives and will help define program focus and direction for the future.

State and county officials began working on the assessment process in July following several regional assessment workshops by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness

(ODP). To help counties meet this challenge, Wisconsin Emergency Management obtained funding to hire six temporary trained staff members. The staff who are located throughout the state, have been working with the county emergency management directors to help complete the assessment process by the October deadline.

One of the obstacles that has hampered counties in completing the assessment is the entering of assessment data on on-line. While recent software upgrades at the federal level, have somewhat improved the accessibility and speed of the on-line program, the system continues to be problematic especially during normal business hours, as jurisdictions across the nation are attempting to enter assessment data to meet program deadlines.

State may seek disaster assistance

By Diane Kleiboer
WEM Disaster Resources Supervisor

Persistent drought conditions during the latter half of the growing season will affect crop production in some areas of the state. WEM has been working closely over the last two months with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Farm Services Agency (FSA) of the USDA to monitor the situation and determine the drought's impact.

Recent rains were welcome and helped replenish soil moisture, but they occurred too late in the growing season to help some crops and yields will be below normal. Particularly hard hit are the corn, soybean and alfalfa for hay crops.

Counties along the western border of the state, appear to have the greatest losses, along with the tier of counties across Wisconsin's southern border. Approximately 25 counties could have qualifying losses of 30% or more, according to preliminary reports received by FSA from the county agriculture offices.

Exact losses will not be known until the harvest is complete, sometime in mid-November. At that time, WEM, in conjunction with DATCP and USDA, will make a recommendation to the Governor about requesting a Secretarial Disaster Designation from USDA. Such a designation would make low-interest loans available from FSA to qualifying farmers in the designated counties.



High winds in mid-August broke these corn stalks near the ground. The stalks were already brittle from lack of rainfall and the ears were not mature. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Farm Services Agency

New WEMA President outlines challenges ahead

By Cullen Peltier
WEMA President



Over the past couple of years, the number of duties required of county emergency management directors have greatly increased. Every director has stepped up to the plate and met these new requirements. This is just another example of the professionalism of every person in every emergency management program.

These additional requirements have given emergency management more exposure than we have seen in the past. With this exposure comes responsibility. It is our responsibility to show the public, elected officials, and first responders what we are capable of. This is our chance to promote our departments. It is also the responsibility of WEMA to promote emergency management statewide.

Our Past President, Hal Swanstrom has done an excellent job of bringing respect to this organization. I hope to build on what he has accomplished. We need to build partnerships with other professional organizations, continue to use our website as a tool for sharing information with the public and our members, establish a partnership with national emergency management associations, and become active in influencing our legislators on issues such as Emergency Management Performance Grants and Homeland Security.

Most importantly we need active participation from every region in the state. We understand everyone is under time constraints. We are not asking for a lot of your time. We are asking that you forward your questions and concerns related to emergency management to us and the Board will address these issues. WEMA needs to continue to gain credibility and



The new WEMA Board members were elected at the October 9 meeting. First Row: South Regional Representative Steve Braun, Secretary Erik Lowman, Treasurer Lori Hucek, Vice President Kathy Wilmot, and West Central Regional Representative John Elliott. Second Row: North East Regional Representative Steve Golubic, President Cullen Peltier, Immediate Past President Hal Swanstrom, and former Secretary Don Wilmot.

influence. Hopefully, through solidarity, we can achieve these goals. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to lead this organization into the future. I look forward to

working with the other emergency management programs throughout the state and I ask for your support over the next two years.

Terrorism the focus of WEMA conference

By Hal Swanstrom
WEMA Past President

Over 70 people attended the 2003 Wisconsin Emergency Managers Association (WEMA) Annual Training Conference in Stevens Point on October 9, 2003.

The focus of the training was on homeland security. Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Ed Gleason discussed the state's response during a terrorist event. In addition, Kent Miller of the FBI provided information on domestic terrorism activities that have occurred around Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's 54th Army National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team leader LTC Marshall Schlichting, gave a brief overview of the military's critical role in WMD response. Wisconsin only has a part-time team but is seeking congressional approval for a full-time team which would provide equipment and training.

Minnesota's 55th WMD Civil Support Team also attended the meeting and explained their roles in an event and displayed some of their equipment.

Exercise raises long-term safety questions

By Teri Engelhart
WEM REP Planner

Lori Hucek
Kewaunee County Emergency
Management

Imagine if an emergency worker came to your home and told you that your family needed to leave immediately. Your home where you may have lived for years – would be unsafe, in fact your whole neighborhood would be uninhabitable for the next 30 years due to heavy levels of radiation.

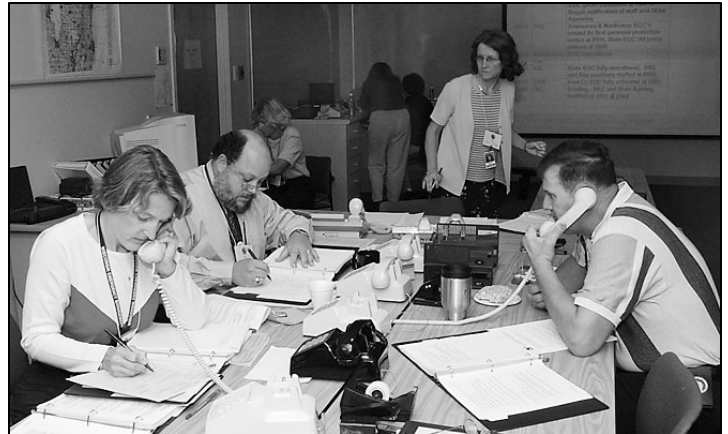
That was one of the tough scenarios facing local and state officials as part of the two day Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Ingestion Pathway Exercise held September 23-24, 2003.

Once every six years, the State of Wisconsin, Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties must conduct an Ingestion Pathways exercise. Ingestion Pathway is an area where radioactive plume release from the plant may affect local area agriculture, wildlife and water supply.

The response at the state and local level is to protect the health and safety of the public by restricting access to the area, determining the extent of radioactive contamination and providing a coordinated process for returning the restricted areas back to normal use.

The first day of the exercise focused on an accident and a radiation release from the nuclear power plant located along the shores of Lake Michigan. Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties, along with the State of Wisconsin, activated their emergency operation centers. A Joint Public Information Center was established in Green Bay as part of the full scale exercise.

Kewaunee County demonstrated the ability to evacuate a special population by actually evacuating a fifth grade class from Holy Rosary School and taking them by bus to St. Mary's Catholic School in Algoma. This simulates moving a school



Participants in the Kewaunee Exercise man the phones at the State Emergency Operations Center in Madison. Several local, state, federal and volunteer agencies participated in the exercise. Photo by Larry Sommers

population out of the ten mile planning zone around the nuclear plant.

In addition, local ambulance departments demonstrated their ability to transport contaminated injured persons to area hospitals. Traffic control points were established and reception centers and shelters were opened in both Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties. A reception center is where people who were evacuated from their homes are to go to be monitored for any contamination as a result of the radiation release from the plant and to obtain further assistance.

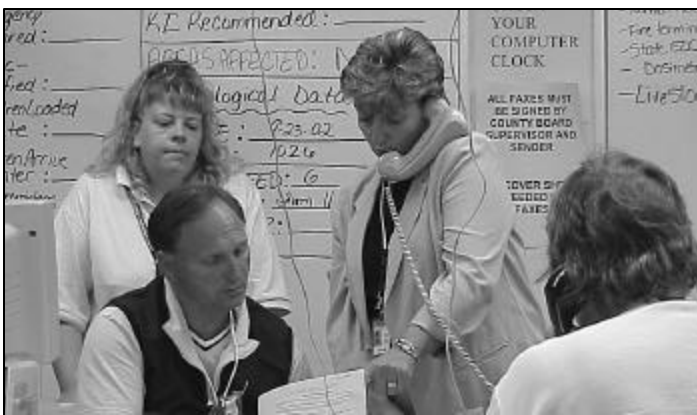
Local and state officials demonstrated radiation monitoring and decontamination for the federal evaluators as part of the exercise requirements.

The second day was spent discussing relocation, re-entry and return issues. When would it be safe for

people evacuated from their homes during the initial emergency to go back home?

Other questions posed included how quickly can state and federal agencies be able to determine what area is cleared of radiological contamination? And the most difficult question, how to implement relocation of entire neighborhoods as a result of high doses of radiation? Health officials estimated it wouldn't be safe to go back into certain areas for at least 30 years.

Many considerations were raised concerning agriculture, livestock and food production. How long would the state enforce an agriculture hold in the impacted areas and what would happen to the contaminated dairy or food products were some of the questions discussed.



Kewaunee County Emergency Operations Center was also busy as participants respond to the plant emergency during the two day exercise. Photo by Dan Dahlke

Bleacher collapse tests Medford responders

By Bill Breneman
Taylor County Emergency Management

Emergency responders tested their rescue skills during an exercise involving the collapse of a bleacher on August 27, 2003 at a Medford football field.

In the exercise scenario, a community group decides to hold a meeting at the Medford Area High School. About 30 people are attending the meeting that is taking place on the football field bleachers. Ten minutes into the gathering there is a loud grating sound followed by the bleachers collapsing. After the collapse, someone uses their cell phone to call

911 dispatch for help and the exercise begins.

Law enforcement, EMS, and area fire fighters arrive at the scene and find 30 people injured with many trapped under heavy poles and beams.

To make the exercise more realistic, exercise planners used cardboard boxes for vinyl siding and cardboard rolls from carpets to simulate the bleachers and supporting structures.

As part of the exercise, responders were informed that the simulated structures were heavy and would require the assistance of a

contractor crane to lift the poles and bleachers off the victims. Participants also

simulated contacting medivac and other response agencies.



The scene at the high school football field in Medford looked like a deadly accident. It was all part of the full-scale exercise held in August. Photo by Bill Breneman

Wisconsin and Illinois responders work together in exercise

By Shirley Connors
Rock County Emergency Management

Emergency officials in Rock County tested the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) for Tech Rescue Teams during a full-scale exercise in Beloit on August 23, 2003.

More than 220 people participated in the exercise at the Alcoa Wheels. Under the MABAS, six fire departments from Rock County and 13 fire departments from Northern Illinois took part in the exercise. A major problem was communications and having enough radios from the City of Beloit to share with all the outside agencies.

This was the first time the City of Beloit Public Works

Department actively participated in an exercise and proved to be extremely helpful. Crews provided graters to drive to transport elevators for all the activity that was taking place. City transit also provided buses to transport some of the "victims" to the hospital.

Alcoa also used the exercise to test their emergency plans including using their alternate emergency operations center (EOC) and a security system that can track employees in the facility.

Beloit Memorial Hospital not only had their EOC activated but also had a representative at the command post which proved to be extremely beneficial. This was helpful

to let the emergency room know the number of patients to expect and when they should arrive at the hospital.

Volunteer groups also took part. The American Red

Cross and Salvation Army provided food for exercise participants. The City of Beloit fire and police chaplains were involved to assist at the family center.



Fire fighters are on standby as they await direction on where to provide assistance during the full-scale exercise in Beloit on August 23, 2003. Photo courtesy of Shirley Connors



Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week November 3-7, 2003

Get Ready For Winter

Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed November 3-7, 2003 as Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week. Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service spearhead this annual weather campaign to remind Wisconsin citizens to prepare for the upcoming winter weather season.

Wisconsin experiences a wide range of winter weather dangers from heavy snowfall to bitter cold temperatures. Preparedness is the best way to keep your family safe when the snow begins to fall.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues outlooks, warnings, watches and advisories for all winter weather hazards. Here's what they mean and what to do.

Winter Storm Outlook:

Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.

Winter Storm Watch:

Winter storm conditions (heavy snow, sleet, freezing rain) are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Keep monitoring the weather forecast.

Winter Storm Warning:

A significant winter storm or hazardous winter weather is occurring or will begin within the next 24 hours.

Blizzard Warning: Winds that are at least 35 mph or greater, blowing snow that will frequently reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less for a duration of at least 3 hours, and dangerous wind chills are expected in the area.

Make a Coffee Can Survival Kit

You easily can equip your vehicle with essential survival gear for winter. Here's what you'll need:

- A large coffee can. You'll be storing items inside the can.
- A candle (Hold can over the candle for melting snow).
- Pocket knife and spoon
- Bright colored scarves or cloth to tie on antenna
- Packets of soup, hot chocolate, etc. (mixed into melted snow to provide warmth and nutrition) and other non-perishable food such as granola bars.
- Extra pair of socks and gloves
- Matches

- A sun shield blanket or 2 large green or black plastic leaf bags (to reflect body heat).
- Flashlight and batteries
- Band aids and aspirin

When complete, place a stocking cap over the kit. You may want to keep the survival kit inside the car in case you go into a ditch and can't get to or open the trunk.

Other items to have in your trunk:

- Sand or cat litter and a shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit and booster cables
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- First-aid kit

Wisconsin Snow Extremes

Greatest Daily Total:
26.0" - Neillsville
Dec. 27, 1904

Greatest Single Storm Total:
31.0" - Superior -
Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1991

Greatest Monthly Total:
103.5" - Hurley
Jan. 1997

Greatest Seasonal Total:
301.8" Hurley
1996-1997

Courtesy of the NWS



Protect your family during winter weather

Exposure to winter weather can become life-threatening. Here are some conditions to be aware of.

Frostbite

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by freezing of the tissue. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately. If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops too low. Warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If a person's temperature is below 95°F (35°C), seek medical care immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person *slowly*. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person **hot** beverages or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first. This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

Overexertion

Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

Pet Care

When temperatures fall, pets need extra care. Bring pets inside when temperature reaches 30 degrees with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside.

Outdoor dogs need a dry, elevated house, with clean dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out. Make sure water bowls are not frozen.

Chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks can irritate pets' paws and be sure to keep antifreeze, salt and other household poisons away from pets.



Winterize Your Home

Before the storm

- ✓ Have your furnace checked
- ✓ If needed add additional insulation to walls and attic.
- ✓ Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- ✓ If you have an emergency heating source, such as a fire place or space heater—make sure you have proper ventilation
- ✓ Smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector with fresh batteries

Have available

- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and commercial radio
- ✓ Non-perishable food and water
- ✓ First aid supplies

Injuries Due To Ice and Snow

- About 70% result from vehicle accidents
- About 25% occur in people caught out in a storm
- Most happen to males over 40 years old



Injuries Related to Cold

(Exposure to cold resulting in frostbite or hypothermia)



- 50% happen to people over the age of 60
- More than 75% happen to males
- About 20% occur at home

Courtesy of the American Red Cross

Terrorism Exercises: *Keeping it real—Just in case*

By Mike Moore
The Racine Journal Times

There were some strange looks in the hospital cafeteria. So what if my head was split open and covered in encrusted blood? I still had to eat. Surviving a nerve gas attack, only to be trampled, rushed to a hospital and decontaminated with a shower while immobilized on a cart, you can really work up an appetite.

That hot dog tasted incredibly good. As I wandered back to the emergency room at St. Mary's Medical Center, I passed some of the other victims of the attack. There were a few with respiratory problems, a couple with arm injuries, but all had been healed. Most were headed for the cafeteria.

All right, that's one terrorist attack licked.

You've probably figured out this wasn't real. It was a drill. Sometimes, that was obvious. Other times it seemed real, and real is good. It gives the area's police, fire, hazardous materials and medical units a little experience in handling big-time disasters.

In past drills, these guys have dealt with a pretend tornado, a hazardous material spill, a plane crash and a flu pandemic. Pretty soon there will be pretend insurance agents following them around.

"This is one of the toughest ones," said Tom Deans, a retired FBI agent now working with Wisconsin Emergency Management who helped evaluate last week's response to the nerve gas disaster.

How did they do? Stay tuned. First, let me tell you how it worked: The "victims" showed up at Horlick High School, signed a waiver - smart move - and picked out a part to play. There were Scouts, community officials and other volunteers. I didn't even have to read for the "head laceration," "dazed and confused" role. Those of us who had serious injuries got painted with enough gore to make it realistic. Barb, the artist, admitted to having a morbid side and



Emergency responders treat a victim as part of the terrorism exercise held in Racine. Photo by Racine County Emergency Management

gave me an extra drop of blood on my nose. The Horlick dance team practiced its moves, oblivious to the wounded freaks.

Not real.

The scenario, although none of us was told it beforehand, had us coming to a Ralph Nader rally at Horlick. I'm a big fan of the guy, so that's not much of a stretch.

Real.

An angry dissenter, played by a Racine police officer, pulled an aerosol can out of a backpack and sprayed the area. We got to skip the panicking and trampling part.

Not real.

After what seemed like a long time, police and fire units pulled in. Firefighters put on gas masks and came inside. They checked on the injured, leading those who could move outside, away from the gas. I started to ad-lib, spouting out "My head!" and "Uuuuuuhhhh." Rescuers smartly decided I might have neck injuries, so they kept me inside temporarily to inhale some more sarin. The guys evaluating

things didn't seem too happy about that.

Real.

After what seemed like an even longer time, the rescue crews stuck me on a backboard, immobilized my head and carried me out on a cart. They pretended to do a "gross decon" - translated to layman's terms, it means a spray off with a fire hose. Since it was in the low 60s, we were all glad they just pretended.

Not real.

I was transported by ambulance (with Mount Pleasant paramedics, I think) and hauled up to the surgery area, but one of the medical workers realized I hadn't yet been decontaminated for real. The games were over. All Saints' brand-new decontamination trailer drenched its first "victim." A bunch of other victims got the complimentary shower, too.

"They received it a half hour into the incident," Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator David Maack told me later in the week. In fact, they were still reading the instructions on how to use the trailer.

It wasn't an act anymore when I said I had a severe headache.

Continued on Page 11

Harleyfest: *Coordinated emergency planning efforts*

By LCDR Sherry Comar
US Coast Guard Milwaukee

Federal, state and local agencies worked together to provide emergency response capabilities during the Harley-Davidson 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world attended the celebration from August 27-31, 2003. The majority of events took place at various locations along Milwaukee's Lakefront.

The Coast Guard base in Milwaukee provided a staging area for numerous federal, state and local response agencies to enforce safety and security during the celebration. The base provided close proximity to the events, easy access to major transportation routes and detailed support to accommodate people, vehicles and equipment.

Dozens of highly trained personnel and specialized

response vehicles were staged at the base. "This coordinated effort shows our capability and dedication to ensuring the safety of the people of Milwaukee," said Deputy Chief Peter Putchinski of the Milwaukee Fire Department.

The size, international interest, and publicity of the event warranted the response preparations. A broad range of capabilities was available to handle possible threats and emergencies.

Some of those capabilities included hazardous materials teams, K-9 bomb detection teams, bomb squads, local, state and federal law enforcement, biological, chemical and nuclear testing and response capabilities.

The event was a great opportunity for Wisconsin Emergency Management to test out a new state of the art communications system which is installed in the state Mobile Command Center.



Emergency Police Services Deputy Director Rick Risler, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening of the Wisconsin National Guard and Coast Guard Commander Mark Hamilton toured the security facilities on Milwaukee's Lakefront prior to the Harley-Davidson celebration events.

Federal, state and local agencies who operated from the Coast Guard's facility included: Amateur Radio Emergency Support, City of Milwaukee Health Department, Department of the Treasury Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Los Alamos

National Laboratory's Biological Emergency Support Team, Milwaukee County Emergency Management, Milwaukee County Sheriff Bomb Squad, Milwaukee Fire Department Hazmat Team, and Wisconsin Emergency Management.

Keeping it Real—Continued Real.

Back to surgery again, but once the workers got me to divulge my mom's favorite casserole and all of the other important information, I got discharged. I kept the wristband with my stage name, "Mike Disaster" and another formerly bloody victim and I headed off in search of food.

Meanwhile, there were plenty of people doing actual work. Officials huddled in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center. Maack said the FBI came in and explained when it would get involved if it were a real attack. There

was even a mock press conference, with Tom Karkow of WRJN radio. As for how everybody graded, it's tough to say. In a real attack, students wouldn't keep wandering through the area. Rapids Drive would be shut down and ambulances wouldn't have to wait forever to make a left turn. Nobody would think twice about calling in workers on their days off. Phones would be ringing off the hook with frightened relatives.

Not real.

Still, Maack could pick out some real successes. Police and sheriff's deputies got in on the act and arrested the bad

guy at the hospital. More importantly, the boatload of agencies got a better idea of how to cooperate and get out of each other's way.

There was a fair amount of confusion, and Deans heard a lot of people talk about needing more training. That tells officials they need to go after grants that might pay for that training. They'll be more prepared for when the situation is ... real.

Mike Moore is the associate editor of The Journal Times. This article was reprinted with permission from Mr. Moore and The Journal Times.



Dog Days of Fall

People attending the Kenosha County Safety Fair got the chance to watch a demonstration by some of the local law enforcement K-9 teams. The October 11, 2003 event was the first safety fair co-sponsored by the Kenosha County Citizens Corps and Kenosha County Emergency Management. Other sponsors included Kenosha County Fire Rescue Safety Association, Kenosha County Fire Chiefs Association, WE Energies, and WITI-TV. Photo by Kenosha County Emergency Management

Wisconsin Emergency Management
PO Box 7865
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53708-7865

Cool Winter Websites

Wisconsin Emergency Management
<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe

Wisconsin DOT Road Conditions
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/road>

National Weather Service Offices
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/othrlnks.htm>